

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society

May/June 2003



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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
July 31st**

Calendar 2003

**Autumn 2m Counties Contest
Sunday August 31st**

**SSB Field Day
Sept 6/7th**

**Cork Rally
September 21st
Blarney Park Hotel**

**Mayo Rally
Nov 16th
Belmont Hotel, Knock**

**Wanted
Outgoing QSL Manager
See page 19**



New IRTS President Sean EI4GK presenting the Ian Morris memorial trophy to Jenny Fagin EI 1463 as the leading Shortwave Listener during 2002

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Silent Keys

EI4CL

Paddy Robinson EI4CL of Blackrock, Co. Dublin, passed away peacefully on May 11th in St. Vincent's University Hospital

Our deepest sympathy to his daughter Evelyn (EI2DP) and son Alan (EI8EZ). May he rest in peace.

EI7BJB

Jim Spain EI7BJB died on June 17th at his home in Enfield.

Our deepest sympathy to his wife Pauline, son Jim and daughters Caroline and Fiona.

EI9BC

Alfred Bradshaw EI 9BC passed away on June 18th in Peamount Hospital after a long illness.

Our deepest sympathy to his wife Eleanor and four daughters.

G1WXD

Many readers in the Cork area will remember Mike G1WXD and his chats on the Cork repeater over the past few years. Some may recall recent visits with his friend John EI3DIB in Ardfinnan and a few may have had the pleasure of meeting Mike.

Sadly Mike passed away on Saturday the 7th of June while in hospital with yet another chest infection.

Royal distinction for Louis, PA0LOU

As part of the celebration of the Birthday of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (30 April), her Majesty awarded Louis van de Nadort, PA0LOU, former chairman of IARU Region 1, "Lid in de Orde van Oranje Nassau" (Knight in the Order of Orange Nassau).

Louis received this royal distinction for his long and dedicated service to the amateur radio community in Region 1 of the International Amateur Radio Union. Lou is an honorary member of IRTS.

Amateur Radio Emergency Network Cork

The AREN NET operates in Cork on the first Tuesday of each month on 145.525 MHz and on 7043 kHz plus or minus, at 2130 local. Operators who are interested in joining AREN are invited to contact John Ketch, EI2GN at the IRTS

IRTS Trophy Winners for 2002

Arup Cup

For service to the society or the hobby

Declan Craig EI6FR

Pat Conway Cup

For service to the society or the hobby

South Dublin Radio Club EI2SDR

Collins Cup

For service to the society or the hobby

Noel Mulvihill EI6HW

Presidents Cup

Ken McDermott EI4DW

Folan Shield

Home Construction

Not Awarded

Kevin Freeney Trophy

Home Construction

Not Awarded

Ian Morris Trophy

Leading Shortwave Listener

Jenny Fagan EI 1463

Sheila Piper Cup

Contribution to the News services of the Society

Pádraig Ó Meachair EI7GK

Spring Counties Contest

High Power Fixed

Mark Boothman EI9IB

Low Power Fixed

Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI

High Power Portable

South Dublin R.C. EI2SDR

Low Power Portable

Dave Moore EI4BZ

FM Only

Niall Foley EI4CF

Autumn Counties Contest

High Power Fixed

Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI

Low Power Fixed

Thos Caffrey EI2JD

High Power Portable

South Dublin R.C. EI2SDR

Low Power Portable

John Kelly EI4HS

FM Only

Kyle O'Connell EI9FGB

CW Field Day

Pete Daly Cup

Open Section

Southern Region RTE EI9E/p

Paddy Smyth Cup

Restricted Section

Joe Ryan EI7GY/p

VHF/UHF Field Day

Thomond Trophy

Open Section

East Cork Group EI7M/p

IRTS VHF Shield

Restricted Section

Dundalk A.R.S. EI7DAR/p

SSB Field Day

Paddy Daly Microphone

Open Section

Dalkey Island Group EI1DD/p

IRTS HF Shield

Restricted Section

Dundalk A.R.S. EI2JD/p

Islands On The Air Contest

IRTS IOTA Trophy

Leading EJ entry

EJ4F

(EI4GK/5DI/7GY/9HQ)

IRTS DX Trophy

Leading EI single op.

John Corless EI7IQ

Hal Hodgens Key

Leading EI 12 Hr CW

Ken McDermott EI4DW

CQWW CW Contest

Tom Donellan Cup

Leading EI single op

Ken McDermott EI4DW



On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,
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Welcome to another On The Air Column with plenty to report on ranging from abysmal band conditions right through to numerous new IOTA activations and the start of Sporadic E openings on **6m**.

Since the beginning of May the Earth has been caught in a high-speed Solar Wind stream that has caused a few G1 and G2-class Geomagnetic Storms which on May 1st gave us a Planetary A index of 40 and left the bands sounding very poor, noisy and on the higher bands like **10m** just dead!

June began with a bang as no less than three X-class Flares have erupted from Sunspot Group 375, the highest so far being an X1.6 on June 11th with the potential for more! In fact one of the X-class Flares caused a Radio Blackout on the afternoon of June 11th as the Sudden Impulse impacted with our Ionosphere. Between June 8th and 13th there were a total of 21 M-class Flares and 3 X-class ones and unfortunately another Sunspot Group, Region 380, is also showing high potential for major flare activity.

Band Reports

The end of March, start of April saw no less than four major DXpeditions vying for our attention on the bands.

First up was the German led trip to Sudan as ST0RY who operated from Mar 20-Mar 31 ending up with 48,064 QSO's in the log. For you interested in statistics they were broken down into 19,200 on Phone (including 9,000 contacts in the CQ WPX SSB Contest), 25,568 on CW and 3,296 on RTTY, who said Morse is dead!

Also flying the flag for Morse were a group of Italians from the Marquesas Islands (OC-027) who were a potent signal into Europe each morning as TX4PG and finished up with 12,607 QSO's on CW, 8,901 on Phone and 1.029 on RTTY.

The ST0RY team had some competition in the guise of Claudio, IV3OWC, who was also QRV from Sudan as ST2CF and had a better signal than the German team at times!

Also on from Africa were S07X who claimed to be the biggest DX trip to Western Sahara and certainly had a well experienced team who managed a very respectable 31,076 QSO's in five days of non-stop activity from Tifariti be-

tween April 15th and the 20th.

Operating from a totally different environment the Dutch Low Land DX Team had to suffer through a ferry strike, Aurorae and storms to finally put the Faroe Islands on between March 31st to April 10th. This was about one week later than planned but still they managed to put 26,964 QSO's in the log. I note that a good number of EI's worked them on the lower bands of **80m** and Top Band **160m**, which included on SSB EI3GZ and EI3IO. Other ops who chose CW on **160m** were EI6BA (which I suspect should be EI7BA), EI6FR and EI7GL.

Interestingly and maybe a reflection on how poor the bands were, the highest band any EI op managed to work them was on **17m**, nothing in the logs from EI's on **15m, 12m** or **10m**.

The main source of activity on the bands though proved to be from Islands as I can report on numerous IOTA numbers either been reactivated after a long time or still more new ones issued.

The very rare Morzhovets Island (EU-119) was on air courtesy of Nick RA1QQ, and Andy RA1NN, as UE1RCC/1 over the weekend of June 7/8th with few takers due to the Geomagnetic Storm that kept the Northern path very subdued,.

The Dark Continent had plenty of island hoppers keeping us on our toes with Sebastian, F8DQZ, coming on from two different DXCC Entities, first as 3XD02/P from AF-051 in Guinea (that's the numbers zero and two at the end of the call) and then going "next door" to Guinea-Bissau to put AF-020 on air as J5UAT.

Also on from J5 land was Simone

IV3NVN, who was on from the mainland as J5UDX before making a five day trip across to Pexixe Island, which previous to the latest IOTA revision was part of the AF-020 Group but was then split up to form Guinea-Bissau Coastal Region. This was un-

numbered until activated by Simone using a different call, J5UCW and now has the provisional reference number AF-093/pr.

Coming on from a more famous location in South Africa, ZS1RBN were on Robben Island (AF-064) which has its claim to fame from been a former prison with Nelson Mandela as its guest for a couple of years. All cards for this one go to G3SWH.

Despite a devastating earthquake on mainland Algeria and having been cancelled once already, some local 7X hams came on from Habbibas Islands as 7W4HI to give us a new one (AF-094/pr) with cards going via OM3CGN.

Supplying us with two more new reference numbers, this time in North America on the same weekend of March 22/23 were HQ8V from the Gracias a Dios Department Group (NA-223) and XF2IH from the Veracruz State South Group (NA-224).

Apparently all IOTA trips from Mexico will be using the XF* prefix from now on, QSL HQ8V via HR2CPS and XF2IH to XE1IH.

While staying in that region members of the Radio Club Cancun using the call XF3RCC celebrated the first anniversary of the club by doing a three island hop between April 3-13. First up was Cozumel island (NA-090) and then on to Holbox and Mujeres islands which are both part of the NA-045 Group.

DK7AO and friends put rare enough NA-190 on air as HU1M/3 in El Salvador (YS).

H74C was on from Little Corn Island, part of the NA-013 group.

Moving down southwards to South America we had just one rare one to keep the interest going with SA-085

CQ 28		East Timor		ITU 54
4W6GH				
○ Bekora, Dili IOTA OC-148		Loc. PI21SK Op. António Pereira (CT1EGH)		○ /p Maker, Ataúro Is. IOTA OC-232
4W6GH confirming QSO with EI2HY				
DD-MM-YYYY	UTC	MHz	2 Way	RST
16-04-2000	15:37	24.9	SSB	59
				QSL TNX
Printed by HamGest v3.0				73's de

(Continued from page 4)

coming on for only the second time when 3G1P fired up on all modes. Joca PS7JN came on as scheduled from St Peter and St Paul Rocks with a new call from previous times ZW0S and despite some rumours of no RTTY work proceeded to operate almost exclusively on that mode during his stay. Rounding up the other noteworthy IO-TAs, we had YE8A from OC-242, not to be confused with YE5A which gave us a new Reference number from OC-262, cards to IZ8CCW.

Also giving us a new one, but this time in Asia, was DL4KQ who came on briefly from Myanmar as XY4KQ (AS-167); E20HHK was Champ, E21EIC, on from AS-125, TA1ED/0 was on from AS-099 while VI5WCP came on as planned from Waldegrove Island East (see last issue) and got the reference number OC-261 for their efforts.

The weekend of May 17/18th had members of the United Radio Amateur Club based in San Pedro California put Santa Catalina Island (NA-066) on air.

Also making "guest" appearances on the bands was DX1ABC a well-known pirate who claims to operate from OC-091 and can generate big pile-ups hi!

To finish off the IOTA section the 2003 Honour Roll is out and among the EI stations listed are EI7CC leading the pack with 850 Groups confirmed, followed by yours truly EI2HY on 648 Groups, other EI's on the listings are EI8AU (319), EI8HA (202) and EI2CH (169). Also making the list is SWL EI1260 with 416 Groups.

As May 17th was ITU Day a few stations came on sporting ITU suffixes including 8J1ITU (JA), 8S0ITU (SM), AX2ITU (VK) and ER0ITU.

If you're a chaser of the various YL Awards a good chance to catch a rare one could be found with June VK4SJ, calling CQ with no takers most mornings at 07:00UTC on **20m** from South Cook (OC-083) as ZK1AYL. Unfortunately there was a sad end to this trip as June's husband Doug VK4BP/ZK1SIM, died when the motor scooter he was on collided with a truck on the island. More YL activity this time from Africa with Ramesh, home call VU2RKS, hamming it up from Mwanza, Tanzania as 5H9KR while well known travellers Babs DL7AFS, and her OM Lothar DJ7ZG came on from Macedonia as Z38Z.

As mentioned in other issues Mike KM9D and YL Jan KF4TUG, are cruising

around the Pacific and are now at yet another DXCC Entity, this time Tuvalu (T2) and are currently active as T21MY and T2YL.

The UN Headquarters in New York (4U1UN) saw a brief burst of activity around June 10th when Fritz, DL4TT came on for a mainly CW operation.

A bit of bad news now, as if like me you still need Wake Island (KH9) for a new one, is that Jake, N6XIV/KH9, is now QRT from there and just to rub salt in the wounds I did work that call sign on CW on the 20th of April only to discover that Jake's first QSO was on April 22nd and he only operates SSB. The joys of "Slim"!

However former Astronaut Chuck N4BQW (of 3Y0C fame) is now on from Wake as N4BQW/KH9 for the next month or so, guess a few more early morning sessions are called for! Lord Howe (VK9L) saw activity courtesy of Trevor, VK7TS, and Rex, VK7MO, using the call VK9LS and making a return trip to Albania, Martii OH2BH and friends once more put ZA1B on air from April 25th to May 5th. Not all the activity of course is rare DX, some people also enjoy working Special Event stations as some can provide interesting cards or commemorative ones. Amongst the "goodies" heard/worked were W4H, on for the 66th anniversary of the Hindenburg Airship disaster, Russian amateurs came on from St Petersburg to celebrate the 300th Anniversary of that city sporting no less than 21 special calls ranging from RL1A through to RL1X and the main station of R300SP.

This ran through to May 31st so some fun was had chasing them all.

On until May 17th was TM5I for the European Disabled Persons Year and in Poland HF25KVW will be QRV until July 31st for the 25th Birthday celebrations of the SP5KVW Radio Club in Ostroleka.

Also on from Poland to commemorate Poland's first steps to joining the European Union was HF6UE, active up to June 10th (useless trivia time, the UE in the suffix stands for Unia Europejska, European Union in Polish!).

To commemorate the last flight of the



The International Space Station is a common project of 16 nations: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States. When fully constructed the Space Station will consist of approximately 70 separate major components and hundreds of minor ones that are due to be launched into space by the year 2004. Some of the major components are:

- **Zarya, also called Functional Cargo Block (FCB—acronym from the Russian term)**—includes the energy block, contingency fuel storage, propulsion and multiple docking points.
- **Zvezda, also called Russian Service Module**—provides life support and utilities, thrusters and habitation functions (toilets and hygiene facilities).
- **Canadian Mobile Servicing System**—includes a 55-foot robot arm with 125-ton payload capability, as well as a mobile transporter, which can be positioned along the truss for robotic assembly and maintenance operations.
- **US, European and Japanese Laboratories**—together provide 33 International Standard Payload Racks with additional science space available in the two Russian Research Modules.
- **The Amateur Radio station** is frequently used to allow the ISS crew to talk with school children and fellow amateurs around the world.

From	To	Day	Month	Year	UTC	MHz	Mode
<input type="checkbox"/> NA1SS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RS0ISS	EI2 JD	01	08	2002	20 ^h 25	145 800	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voice <input type="checkbox"/> Packet <input type="checkbox"/> SSTV <input type="checkbox"/> SWL

Air France Concorde fleet, TM5SC was active for a couple of weeks towards the start of June with cards going to F5ASD.

Appearing on **15m** was a station signing YI4F and asking for cards via KU9C, a case of WFWL (Work First, Worry Later) but there are many stations on the air at the moment from Iraq and many seem to be US Army Servicemen signing YI/home calls which to receive approval for DXCC Status had to have their operation signed by their commanding officer.

Also on are well known DXers working for the UN Food Programme and have now received DXCC Approval so watch out for: YI/EK6DO, YI/EK6KB, YI/F5ORF, YI/ON4WW, YI/ON5NT, YI/S53R, YI/S57CQ, YI/SM7PKK and YI/VK4KMT, all these calls should be familiar as they also worked from Afghanistan as YA5T.

Log Extracts

Moving onto log extracts with the HF Bands being a bit poor not too much to report.

A bit of RTTY produced the following on **10m** (on the rare occasion it opened hi!) A45WD, C5P, HH4/W4WX, STORY and prize catch ZW0S on St Peter and St Paul Rocks.

15m had some nice ones: AP2IA, C5P, CN8KD, FM5WD, S05X, SU1SK and ZC4DW while **20m** was able to support propagation to 3G1P, 5Z4BK, 6W1RT,

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OH0M, OY7WB, OY8PA, TX5PG, VU2TRI, ZA3/IK2DUW and ZL2BR.

Six Metres

The "Magic Band" of **6m** is opening most days now around Europe via Sporadic-E with an odd TEP assisted hop via Sporadic down into Africa. Didn't catch many openings as the aerial here is just a Watson w2000 Tribander vertical but notable openings occurred on April 23rd from 11:30UTC onwards with OE8RT (JN86EH), OE6BMG (JN77JE), OE5MPL (JN78CJ), HB9RG (JN47HF), being worked before the opening moved on to the always reliable Italians with IW3IA (JN65CM), I3VIP (JN55WJ), and IW2DMN (JN45KL). Another big opening happened on May 6th to much the same areas but interesting catch was 4U1ITU on CW at 16:31UTC, also you had EH3AR from IN92ES, YU1EXY (KN04FT) and heard but not worked on May 7th was Brian, 9J2BO, on 50.107MHz CW with a huge gathering of the faithful. I presume I was able to hear him via a Sporadic-E hop to Italy and then a TEP hop to Zambia.

Much the same story for the rest of May, Europe most days then PY5CC (in grid GG54RE) was worked by nearly all of the more active EI's on the evening of May 20th.

June saw the band open every day with some nice stations floating about like CN8KD at 20:32UTC on June 4th and EH9LS also on that same evening. 9H1TX was the furthest east worked on the afternoon of June 5th at 16:14UTC while T72EB graced the log on June 6th at 17:55UTC.

Touring Iceland and activating some grids and lighthouses was Keith, TF/G4ODA, who was working EI's for a good ten minutes from HP93HV at the time.

Some brief openings happened to North America and some evenings found KP4EIT calling CQ on 50.110Mhz with few takers, but again due to antenna limitations I had to rely on some of the active DX'ers to work him.

However the evening of June 12th produced an exceptional opening to the Caribbean with V25XX been chased by Europeans at 20:00UTC on 50.118MHz (cards to WB8XX) while just up a few KHz on 50.125MHz, KP2A proved very easy to work on CW at 20:24UTC. One station that needed a beam was FM5WD who switched between CW and SSB and proved too weak to work with the

vertical hi!

Also too weak to attract their attention were 8P9HW, 9Z4BM and FJ5DX so I had to make do with a consolation contact with CU2/IV3GBO/P in grid HM77FT.

Other EI's were very active and I heard the DX working EI3EBB, EI5FK, EI6IZ, EI7GL, EI7IX and EI8JK, there was a time when EI was extremely rare on **6m** hi! Chuck, EI4IS, also reports the HF Bands in poor shape and just lists CU3DJ/P on EU-175, RA9LI/9 on AS-083 and Chuck was happy to work UA1ADQ/0 on AS-042 and XF3RCC on NA-090 for two new IOTA's so all was not lost. As always I'm hopeful of receiving other band reports as I note many EI's spotted on six.

Up And Coming

Champ, E21EIC, is set to be QRV from Laos as XW1IC until June 27th, while some YL's are touring some of the VK9 Entities and have announced the following so far: VK9XYL, Christmas Island, between October 13-27 and VK9CYL, Cocos Keeling, from October 27 to November 10.

Returning to Africa and a drastic change of scenery for Francois, F8DVD, who has just finished up from Svalbard as JW/F8DVD and will be going to Djerba Island (AF-083), Tunisia as 3V8SM which is the call for the Scouts Radio Club.

Heading down south no less than two major operations are set to come on from Lesotho (7P8) towards the end of June and beginning of July.

First off the block will be the "The African Double Trip" by AA4NN, IN3ZNR and IK2ANI who plan to hit both Botswana (A22) and Lesotho, hence the name of the group hi! The team plan to arrive in South Africa on June 28th with possible on air activity as ZS/Home calls then onto Botswana first from July 2-6 before hitting Lesotho from July 7-12, calls will be A25FV/7P8NR (IN3ZNR), A25NI/7P8NI (IK2ANI) and A25NN/7P8NN (AA4NN).

Not to be confused with this trip, members of the Texas DX Society will be on from Lesotho from July 18-25th, as there will be no group call sign here's a list of the planned calls followed by their home calls: 7P8CF (K5LBU), 7P8DA (K4SV), 7P8IZ (W0IZ), 7P8MJ (W5MJ), 7P8NK (VA7DX), and finally 7P8TA (WW5L).

To do their own mini "Double Jump"

K4SV and VA7DX have plans to go to Swaziland (3DA) afterwards and to round things up, VI8NT will be on from the Northern Territories between July 1st right through until December 31st to celebrate 25 years of Self Government.

Timor Leste

Finally, some confusion has been caused on the bands by some speculation that East Timor is to be deleted on the grounds that all QSO's before May 2003 were illegal!

This comes about as apparently an agreement signed between Portugal and Indonesia on May 5th 1999 did not make the UN "caretaker" administrators of East Timor but providers of Humanitarian aid and maintaining a Peacekeeping role through the auspices of UNTAET (UN Transitional Administration in East Timor) which was not authorized to issue Amateur Radio call signs.

The ARRL's DX Advisory and Awards Committees quite possibly misinterpreted the language of the treaty as conferring DXCC Entity status on East Timor as a UN administered territory which in fact was not the case.

Only when the referendum authorized by the treaty was held and the East Timorese people declared themselves independent was there a new entity, East Timor is now known as the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste and if the ARRL agrees, the UN sanctioned operations in East Timor would be deleted on the grounds that East Timor was not an entity under the rules and a new entity would be created effective 20 May 2002, the date of the creation of the East Timorese state.

The Democratic Republic of Timor Leste became a UN state on 27 September, 2002 and has been issued the 4W prefix call sign block.

Of course this means that if it is deleted we'll have to work Timor Leste again for a new one and indeed it has been very active for the last few weeks with first off the mark Thor TF3MM, on as 4W3DX, joined by JA1BK (4W1BK) and JR2KDN (4W2DN) while Peter G3WQU, is stationed there as 4W3CW.

That's it for this issue, my thanks go to the Daily DX for some of the news so until next issue, keep listening !

73 de EI2HY

Hello, A Life in Ham Radio by Danny Gregory & Paul Sahre

Reviewed By John EI2GN

Danny Gregory, KC2KGT, is a writer, a collector, and the chief creative officer of a New York Advertising Agency and a Ham.

Paul Sahre, KC2KHN, is a graphic designer, an educator and a Ham who works and lives in New York City.

Authors Note.

Near the end of his life, Jerry Powell gave his son Donald a phone number. It belonged to a dealer in ham gear whom Jerry told his son to call when he died. The dealer took away two truckloads of radios, antennas, odds and ends and a three ring binder full of QSL cards. Some time later this album ended up on a folding table at a flea market where I came upon it. Intrigued, I bought the collection, took it home and puzzled over it. Eventually I determined it had something to do with ham radio, a topic I knew nothing about. Over the next year, Paul and I both learned a great deal about this hobby. We spoke with dozens of hams around the world, read books, Visited hamfests, and eventually got our licences. Today we are regulars on repeaters around New York and New Jersey. Though we never met him, Jerry was our Elmer. We hope he does the same for you.

(Danny Gregory KC2KGT)

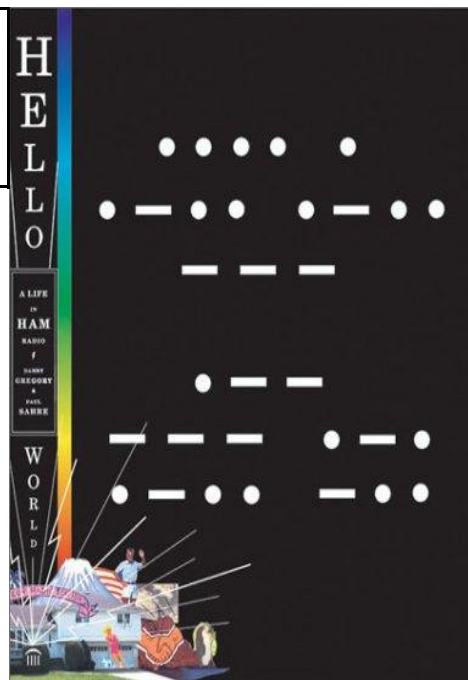
The impact of the book is immediate, as the first information is contained inside the front foldout jacket, with a glossary of ham radio, common Q signals, the Morse code and other information familiar to radio amateurs. The first few pages go on to show in retro, 1950s

style, illustrations of a ham radio set, radio hams, a cq call, a qsl card, an emergency situation, and a globe showing the world as we know it. All of this sets the scene for what follows in the remainder of the book, characterised by such passages as:

"So when a ham gets on his (and it is rarely a her) radio, he can be pretty sure what sort of person he'll discover. It won't be some lonely trucker wondering if his good buddy spots any smokies. And it won't be a conversation cloaked in anonymity or garbled in a crowded chat room with people whom he'll never encounter again"

This book is largely a visual experience that deals with all aspects of amateur radio by showing an arrangement of Jerry Powell's, W02JW & W9DOG, QSL cards along with various photographs and illustrations. This is a visually sophisticated publication that chronicles Jerry Powell's time spent as a radio amateur and which also marks various world events that happened during the years he operated as what is described as "an average ham". Cards from South Korea after WWII, from South Africa and from Uruguay help to chart war, prosperity and human achievement in a way which celebrates these events and celebrates also the life a radio amateur who lived through those times.

It is a link with the past in that it charts the history of radio and amateur radio from the earliest days of operation up to the death of Jerry Powell in 2001.



It is a link with the future in that it brings the subject of Amateur Radio to life and has resulted in the authors obtaining their own licences.

All radio amateurs reading the book, although reading is a loose term as the experience is more akin to a visit to an exhibition, will recognise all and every aspect of their hobby. These aspects are presented in a positive way that encapsulates the wonder associated with the technical, social and public service aspects of amateur radio. This book should be in your collection.

Read it, enjoy it and pass it on. It will result in an increased interest in and understanding of our little known, greatest hobby of them all. It will result in many new successful licence applications from those in whom it will spark an interest in the spirit and values of amateur radio.

Free on the Net

Readers may be interested in these "Freebies" that I've found on the Internet:- For those wishing to learn Morse or increase their speed, a Morse Tutor rather like a keyboard typing tutor from - www.mrx.com.au

For CW SWLs or 'comms' listeners, a free Morse decoder, via your RX & soundcard, by Sergio Podstrigailo, UA9OSV, (shows text from peak scan on screen) start search engine on - CWGet V1.36

And for licensed amateurs to print their own design of QSL card from simple templates, search on - WB8RCR QSL Maker BL2 V2.2

All the above are completely free, very easy to use and they download quite quickly.
73 de Peter Mac Dougall, EI299

Declan EI9HQ

Congratulations to Declan EI9HQ who recently received his Worked All US Counties initial certificate number 3233 as well as his certificate for first place EI on 10 metres in last years WPX SSB contest.

He participated in this years Ten-Ten contest and finished 10th in the world. Congratulations Declan.

He plans a trip to Arranmore Island off Donegal for the IOTA contest in July. The WAI square here is B61 Donegal. He will activate the lighthouse as well.

Contest Rule Changes

At a recent meeting of the IRTS Committee, some important rule changes were approved.

These changes will allow for non-members of the Society to participate in multi-operator stations in IRTS contests. Any such station must be representing an affiliated club or society. The amended rules are printed below and should be filed with your current year book.

If you have any queries, please contact the IRTS Contest Manager, Noel Walsh EI2JC at QTHR.

ooo000ooo

GENERAL RULE 3.4:

Operators of stations within the Republic of Ireland must be paid up members of the IRTS, with the exception of multi-operator entries from affiliated Clubs or Societies

CW FIELD DAY/ SSB FIELD DAY/
VHF-UHF FIELD DAY/ ALL RULE 4

4. Eligible Entrants:

4.1 : Any affiliated Club/Society or any group of paid up IRTS members in EI
This generally is a multi-operator contest for portable stations.

2M COUNTIES CONTEST

RULE 1.

All entrants must be members of the IRTS, with the exception of multi-operator entries from affiliated clubs or societies. This rule does not apply to entrants from outside EI.

Somalia 1994

Did you, or do you know someone who operated as T5/EI5C from Somalia during 1994?

Unfortunately, the ARRL say that the operation was never accredited and QSOs made do not count for DXCC credit.

Many stations are in possession of QSL cards from T5/EI5C and are anxiously awaiting word of accreditation.

If you have any information on this station, please contact the Editor.



VHF/UHF News

With

Joe Fadden EI3IX

Squares Table 2003

Callsign	6m	4m	2m	70cm	23cm	Total
EI2JD	205	2	16	1	0	224
EI3IX	108	2	7	2	0	119
EI7IX	100	1	1	0	0	102
EI5FK	0	0	62	0	0	62
EI3IO	40	4	0	0	0	44
EI7GL	5	1	7	2	0	15
EI7FAB	3	3	7	2	0	15
EI3EBB	2	0	6	0	0	8
EI7BMB	6	0	0	0	0	6

New entries and updates for 2003 to
Joe EI3IX joe_fadden@yahoo.com

This table will be printed in each issue of Echo Ireland, along with been displayed on EI7GL's webpage. I would be very interested in getting updates from any of the 23cm or 10GHz operators out there.

Challenge F8SH

In 2002 took place the challenge F8SH devoted to the E sporadic propagation on the 2 meters band. The collected logs are sent to Mr Jim Bacon, G3YLA, IARU research co-ordinator and serve to feed a database for the study of this type of propagation.

Not less than 20 stations (F, ON, OZ, PA, I) had sent a log and that was Alessandro, IW0GPN, who won the challenge with 91 QSOs and 34 locators. The best distance was achieved by Bernard, F1CKB, who realised the best DX with 2542 KM (QSO with EA8BTV in IL18QI from IN97SL).

This year, the promoters decide to renew the challenge and hope more participants. To take part, nothing more simpler.

You have just to send a certified copy of your log with all the established contacts via Es between 1st May and 30th September 2003 to one of the promoters. Rules of the challenge and results of last year can be seen on the website : <http://challengef8sh.ifrance.com>.

For the people who do not have Internet, a copy of the rules can be obtained on request from the organisers :

Christophe Auzzino (F8ACF), Résidence les Korrigans BAT 3 N° 9, F-56170 Quiberon (France) or
Daniel Vandewalle (ON7VZ), Mazenque 25, B-7866 Ollignies (Belgium).

P.S. - Don't forget the up coming VHF Field day during the first weekend in July. If you are not able to put in an entry at least come up on the bands and give some valuable points to those taking part.

Knowing your exact maidenhead locator would make life a lot easier for the participating stations!.

Regards
Joe EI3IX

Committee Report presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Lynch's Green Isle Hotel, Dublin on Sunday 27th April 2003

Committee Meetings

Seven Committee meetings were held during the year. To facilitate the majority of the in-coming Committee members, the venue for these meetings was switched from Athlone to Port Laoise.

Although primarily concerned with long-term policy issues, committee meetings are also valuable to ensure that on-going difficulties and opportunities are aired in an open and supportive atmosphere.

Membership

The total membership of IRTS at the end of December 2002 was **977**. This figure showed an increase of 1 over the equivalent date in 2001.

It must be regarded as very satisfactory that membership levels are being maintained in EI despite the experience in other countries where the long-term trend appears to be downwards.

Licensing

Information provided by ComReg (ODTR) indicates that the number of EI licenses current at the end of the year amounted to 1,766. This was one less than the number at the end of 2001.

Detailed analyses of current IRTS membership and long-term trends, together with licence statistics are attached at the end of this report.

ComReg (formerly ODTR)

During the year the Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation was restructured and changed its name to Commission for Communications Regulation. The new body continued to have responsibility for Radio Experimenter licensing matters.

The long awaited new Licensing Regulations were promulgated in September 2002. These updated many obsolete and redundant sections in existing Regulations and provided the Regulator with authority to legislate more easily for new developments and possible future modes in Amateur Radio. Acting with the authority conferred un-

der the new Regulations, the Regulator initially reduced the code speed required under the mandatory Morse Testing legislation from 12 words per minute to 5 words per minute. This brought EI into line with the standard applying in most European countries.

The committee welcomed the new Regulations insofar as they updated and modernised the rules under which the experimenter community operates. However, it deplored the fact that the Regulations were introduced without adequate consultation with IRTS and that they contain a number of provisions which are unacceptable to the Society.

Following publication of the Regulations, the Regulator announced the maximum permitted power limits by band and mode. While acknowledging that some areas were granted a welcome increase in permitted power levels, the committee was generally unhappy that we are still confined to maximum power levels that remain below generally accepted European standards. The Regulator's insistence on designating power levels in dBW, a somewhat complex and (to experimenters) obscure unit was not welcomed.

Following publication of the new Regulations, the Committee sought, and obtained, an urgent meeting with the Regulator. Although no changes to the Regulations were possible arising from that meeting, a number of clarifications were obtained and undertakings given which ensured that some of the more unwelcome elements of the Regulations would, in their application, be less threatening.

One major issue is still unresolved. The difficulty in obtaining Theory Tests has been a problem for the Society in recent years and is one that is currently being examined. A proposal to have IRTS take responsibility for Theory Testing has been under discussion with ComReg for a number of years. To date it has not been possible to finalise this proposal and this subject is likely to be a particularly challenging one for the in-coming

Committee.

Relations between IRTS and ComReg which had deteriorated in recent years have now taken a turn for the better and could reasonably be described as satisfactory.

Morse Testing

With the reduction of the Morse Testing speed to 5 words per minute, it was anticipated that a significant number of Class B licensees would take the opportunity to upgrade to Class A status. This proved not to be the case and the numbers taking the test were again disappointing. During the year 3 candidates took the test at 12 w.p.m. One of these passed while 17 candidates took a 5 w.p.m. test and 9 passed..

IARU

As the member society for Ireland of the International Amateur Radio Union, IRTS continues to play its part on the International stage. Sean Nolan EI7CD and Sean Donelan EI4GK represented IRTS at the triennial conference of IARU Region 1 in San Marino in November. This Conference was a watershed in Region 1 history as it saw the election of a new team of officers. The outgoing team had safely steered the Region through many storms for over thirty years and were now happy to hand it over in good condition to young blood.

The IARU Region 1 Conference was also the last opportunity for the International Amateur community to discuss and fine tune its strategies in respect of the World Radio Conference scheduled for June 2003.

The issues for decision at WRC 2003 have not changed but IARU has been unrelenting in its lobbying of licensing authorities across the world on behalf of the amateur service. The main issue is the IARU request for an additional primary allocation of 200 kHz in the 7 MHz Band. Although supported by li-

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

censing authorities in the West, the opposition of African and Asian countries means that a positive outcome on this issue is far from certain.

The other issue of interest to Radio Amateurs is the scheduled discussion on Article S25 of the ITU Radio Regulations. This will primarily centre on the mandatory requirement for candidates to pass a Morse Test before obtaining access to the Amateur Bands below 30 MHz. Indications are that the mandatory Morse test will be deleted from Article S25. The decision to retain or delete the requirement in its own jurisdiction will then be left to each licensing authority.

The Irish delegation to WRC 2003 will include Mr. John Breen of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. IRTS has kept Mr. Breen informed of its views on the issues for decision at WRC 2003. It appreciates the fact that Mr. Breen has been willing to listen to, and take note of, our representations.

Eurocomm

This is an EU wide group of amateurs that keeps an eye on EU Directives and legislation that could impact on Radio amateurs. In recent years it has been particularly exercised by the subject of Power Line Transmission (PLT) which has a potential to generate serious interference for radio users. The research done by EUROCOMM is particularly useful to IRTS, and relevant to Ireland, now that the ESB has been given permission to undertake experiments with PLT. IRTS has already made representations to ComReg on the subject.

AREN

Although there was a limited amount of AREN activity during the year, initial discussions have taken place with Civil Defence with a view to setting up a formal cooperation agreement. The discussions are at a very early stage and are unlikely to come to fruition for another year or so.

During the year a new organisation, RAYNET IRELAND was set up based in Belfast. Although affiliated to IRTS, RAYNET IRELAND is an independent

body that recruits members from both sides of the Border. IRTS was happy to Assist RAYNET IRELAND in negotiating licensing and operating conditions with ComReg.

Clubs

There are 35 Club Members of IRTS. This is only two less than the figure at the end of 2000. Although there are no figures to support the view that the majority of Clubs are in a very weak state, the general view is that this is indeed the case. A resurgence in club membership and activity would be a very welcome development but, can anybody suggest how this might be brought about?

Publications

Echo Ireland was published five times in 2002. This was one issue short of the standard set in recent years. A return to a six-issue year is promised for 2003.

A HTML version of Echo Ireland is produced by Joe Ryan EI7GY and made available to "White Stick" members who can thus get a spoken version of the Newsletter by using specially adapted browsers.

Although titled "Year Book 2003", the year book was produced and distributed in 2002. To keep postage costs to a minimum, it was limited to 56 pages – the same number as in recent years. However, on this occasion, the editor was able to include some additional information.

Rallies

The number of Rallies in EI can now be counted on the fingers of one hand. Their decline can be attributed to two causes – Hotel and Insurance costs. Clubs, in the main are unwilling to take the financial risks associated with staging a Rally. The decline in this traditional method of associating with other experimenters is to be greatly regretted.

Book Sales

Peter Grant EI4HX succeeded in significantly increasing sales of Amateur Radio related books and other material in 2002. Additional stocks were purchased and new lines were added to his list. Unfortunately, the decline in Rally activity has reduced the number of sales opportunities. In the future, it may be

necessary to find new methods of promoting sales.

Web-Site

Leslie Long EI4DU continues to maintain the Web-site, which contains information about the Society and about Amateur Radio generally.

The membership application form available on this site has been an important source of new members for the IRTS.

Independently of the Web-site, the Society maintains an on-line Call Book at <http://www.qsl.net/ei7gy/eicalls.html>

This listing is updated regularly (on 42 occasions in 2002) and in the past year 2 was accessed 3,370 times.

QSL Service

Readers of Michael McNamara's regular column in Echo Ireland will gain some idea of the volume of QSL cards arriving from buros abroad. Michael does an initial sort on these cards before passing them on to Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX who distributes them to the sub-Managers. Although there are occasional lapses in the service, members by and large receive a regular delivery of cards.

Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI manages the out-going QSLs with quiet efficiency.

Radio News

During the year distribution of the news scripts was changed to an email only system. This meant that the preparation of the weekly scripts could take place on Friday rather than Tuesday, thus making the news much more up to the minute.

Although the change did create problems for some of the newsreaders, the new system is now working well.

The difficulty in producing a worthwhile scrip every week must not be underestimated. There are the inevitable weeks where news is a bit light. Again, we appeal to members to submit items for the news and hence try to make the Editor's job less onerous and the Radio News more interesting..

Awards

The difficulty in earning the WEIC

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Award becomes apparent when we see the small number issued during the year - 4. The WAI, on the other hand continues to have many enthusiastic adherents, with numerous Awards being issued. The number of Books in operation has now reached 430.

VHF

The first claim for a successful trans-Atlantic QSO on 2 metres was received during the year. This was in respect of a contact using a new digital mode known as WSJT. The claim documentation is in the hands of the Brendan Trophy Award Committee and an adjudication on the validity of the claim following analysis of all the information received, will be made in due course.

2 meters and 4 meters activity days and evenings enjoyed mixed support during the year. The aim of the activity events was to promote greater use of these bands. The increased use of the 4 meter band, which is very gratifying, is largely due to the more readily available supply of low-band ex-PMR gear. Experimenters in EI only have 4 meters on a secondary basis and as a result our allocation there will always be under threat from PMR interests.

The fastest growing of the VHF bands in EI is the 6 meter band. Unfortunately the propagation on that band is now in decline and it is likely to be some years before the good conditions of recent years return.

John Desmond EI7GL became the first EI to achieve 6 meter DXCC. He was closely followed by Dave Court EI3IO. Congratulations are extended to both.

There is also a gradually increasing use of the 70 centimeters band. This has been greatly facilitated by the award of the Slievenamon Perpetual Trophy for 70 centimeter operation.

The VHF/UHF squares totals for 2002 are down slightly on the previous year. Current standings were published in Echo Ireland as scores came to hand and they are also available on EI7GL's Web page.

Contests

The society directly organises 5 contests each year – CW, SSB and VHF/UHF Field Days and Spring and Autumn 2m Counties Contests.

Unfortunately, support for the Field Days is poor, with only 5 stations entering the HF Field Days and 3 entering the VHF/UHF event. We appeal to clubs to make a greater effort to get members involved in these Contests.

The 2 meters Counties Contests are well supported and generate a significant amount of activity but not all participants submit a log. 18 logs were submitted in each of the 2002 contests.

The Contest best supported by EI operators is, without doubt, the RSGB promoted Islands On The Air event each July. The IRTS has three trophies available to members for this contest and all are eagerly fought for.

Members Input

The Society could not operate without the involvement of its members. In the first instance, they help to maintain it financially through their membership subscriptions. Secondly, the many hours of unpaid effort undertaken by the band of volunteer helpers ensures that the day to day affairs of the Society run smoothly.

The Committee expresses its thanks to all those who contributed in any way to the running of the Society during the year and looks forward to a continuing contribution in 2003.

Reading the Mail

By

Welcome to compilation #24 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 5 March to 9 May 2003.

During the time small packets of cards (less than 1 kilo) came from ARABiH, BFRR Belarus, EDR, the LABRE divisions for AM, CU and SC, TARL Tajikistan, and USKA.

Keeping up the volume of cards, much larger parcels came from ARRL, Dutch QSL Buro, PZK (1 – 2 kilos), JARL (5 kilos), DARC (9 kilos) and ARI (5 parcels x 2 kilos each).

While sorting the cards the following were noticed and thought worthy of mention:

EY5/RA3OO, H7DX, HX4MWC (QSO in July 1984), R3Q/EY8CQ, XU7ABA, ZA1/IK7VJP, 5H2MN, 5T5PBV, 5U2K, 5V7TD, 7X0DX, and 9J2JOCV.

Still very obvious was the large number of cards reflecting activity on 50 and 144MHz with the USA and Europe.

As well as cards from the many German, Greek, Italian and Japanese islands, for island chasers the following were noticed:

BV3/DJ3KR, CE0Y/DM5TI, EM1HO, HF0POL, JK1KNB/JD1, JD1BCK, KH0M, KH0/JA1AYC, T33R, T88BB, T88FS, TX8JNN, YJ0AHK, ZK1KDN, ZK1NDS, ZK1SCQ, 8M1C/1, and 9M2TO (50MHz QSO).

Congratulations to all concerned.

For now, all best wishes and lots of good DX.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.

The Slievenamon Shield Activity over four Sundays in July

The Slievenamon Shield, presented to the Society by the Tipperary Amateur Radio group, is awarded to the leading station in the 70cms challenge run each July.

The aim of the challenge is to work as many stations as possible on 70cms, FM only, on the four Sundays in July.

Entries should be submitted to the IRTS Contest manager, Noel Walsh EI2JC to reach him by August 31st.

All contacts must be simplex and the use of any repeating device is not allowed.

IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st December 2002

Presented to the Annual General Meeting at the Green Isle Hotel, Dublin on 27th April 2003.

I have pleasure in presenting the accounts for the year 2002 for approval.

The Society's accounts show a surplus of €1968 for the year and this amount has been added to the General Reserve. The amount of the General Reserve is now in excess of €33,000. The Society, for an organisation of its size, remains in a strong position financially.

The general rise in the cost of living is reflected as an increase in a number of areas of the accounts such as postage, bank charges, room rent and stationary. We also produced a new Call Book and the cost of €2085 is shown in the accounts. An Post have also indicated that having been granted an increase in foreign postage they will request an increase in domestic postal rates this year. This will increase our outgoings in the coming year.

Our Society has always had the objective of providing its members with the highest level of service for the lowest practicable subscription. I am pleased to say that this situation has not changed. It can only be maintained by members of the Society carrying out the work on a voluntary basis. An increase in the number of members who would be willing to undertake work on behalf of the Society would be appreciated.

This has been my first year as Treasurer. The annual subscription is the life blood of the Society and I would like to thank all those who paid their subscriptions, in particular, all who pay the subscription on receipt of the first advice. These early replies reduce the number of subsequent reminders that have to be issued with a consequent reduction in the cost of stationery and postage.

The pursuit of subscriptions and issue of news letters would be very difficult were it not for the work of Joe Ryan who developed and continues to maintain the database of the membership, many thanks Joe.

Sean Donelan, the previous Treasurer, has been my mentor and support through out the year. Although Sean retired as Treasurer he continued to carry out a number of ancillary functions such as the collection, enveloping and issue of the newsletters. This has reduced my work load and all his help to me is very much appreciated.

Signed:

Brendan De hÓra EI3GV

Hon. Treasurer.

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2002

	2001	2001	2002	2002
Fixed Assets				
Equipment		Nil		Nil
Prize Bonds		£70		€89
Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc.		£594		€754
Current Assets				
Stock for Re-sale	£3,392		€4,304	
Cash on Deposit	£18,519		€24,064	
Cash at Bank	£3,559		€4,480	
-		£25,470		€2,848
<u>Surplus of Assets over Liabilities</u>		£26,134		€33,691
Represented by:				
General Reserve		£23,006		€31,180
IARU Conference Reserve		£3,128		€2,511
		£26,134		€33,691
Dublin ARC Disbursements Account				
Balance remaining for disbursement at 31 st December 2001		£191		€243

Signed

Brendan De hÓra EI3GV

Hon. Treasurer

Note: 2001 figures in IR£, 2003 figures in €.

IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year to 31st December 2002

INCOME	2001	2001	2002
Subscriptions	£15,014	€19,064	€19,892
Donations	Nil	Nil	€18
Advertising	£100	€127	€85
Book Sales	(£562)	(€714)	(€290)
Investment Income	£561	€712	€668
Sundry Income	£165	€210	€11
	-----	-----	-----
	£15,278	€19,399	€20,688
	=====	=====	=====
EXPENDITURE			
Newsletter Printing	£4,664	€5,922	€5,087
Postage	£2,384	€3,027	€2,714
Postage & Telephone	£804	€1,021	€1,017
Yearbook Printing	Nil	nil	€2,085
Radio News	£100	€127	€200
QSL Service Outwards	£500	€635	€957
Inwards	£467	€593	€410
Stationery & Admin.	£562	€714	€1,477
P.O. Box Rental	£70	€89	€216
Insurance	£316	€401	€492
Committee Meetings	£280	€356	€609
AGM Costs	£566	€719	€120
IARU Dues	£806	€1,023	€1,093
EIORTS Licence Fee	£8	€10	€10
Depreciation	Nil	Nil	Nil
Conference Reserve	£1,000	€1,270	€1,270
Bank Charges	£107	€136	€320
Trophies	£325	€413	€400
Website Costs	£491	€623	€202
Millennium Award	£1,000	€1,270	Nil
	-----	-----	-----
	£14,450	€18,348	€18,720
	=====	=====	=====
Surplus/Deficit for Year	£828	€1,051	€1,968
	-----	-----	-----
	£15,278	€19,399	€20,688
	=====	=====	=====

Auditors Report

We, the undersigned, acting as Honorary Auditors of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, have compared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Notes thereon, with the books and vouchers of the Society and certify that they are correct and in accordance with them.

Signed:

Thomas McLoughlin EI400

Ger Gervin EI8CC

IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

Notes on, and forming part of the Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2002

1. Income

Subscriptions and Income received during the year were credited to the Income and Expenditure Account.

Subscriptions covering any period after 31st December 2002 were not treated as prepaid.

No provision was made for Subscriptions in arrears.

2. General Reserve

Balance as at 1 st January 2002	£22,178	29,212
Add: Surplus for year 2002		1,968

Balance as at 31 st December 2002		31,180
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3. Equipment

All Equipment in the possession of the Society has been fully depreciated.

4. Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc

Shares in Irish Life and Permanent plc are shown in the Balance Sheet at the issue price (€2.29 per share).

The Market Value of these shares on 22nd February was €3,175.

5. Cash on Deposit

	2001	2002
Irish Life and Permanent plc.		
£13,044	€23,514	€24,064

6. IARU Conference Reserve

	2001	2002
Balance on 1 st Jan.	£3128	€3972
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account		€1,270

		€5,242
Less Expenses 2002	€2,731	

Balance on 31 st December		€2,511

CW Field Day 2003

Hosted in Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary by Paddy Maher EI3AV



1: Joe EI7GY; 2: Jerry EI6BT; 3: Anatoly EI8JA and Jeremy EI5GM; 4: Charles EI6IS;
 5: Contest manager Noel EI2JC; 6: John EI2GN with Jim EI4DT; 7 :Steve EI9HC; 8: SP??? With IRTS President Sean EI4GK.
 Opposite page: 9: Remote tuner; 10: Cookhouse; 11: Thos EI2JD waiting for six to open; 12: Brian EI8IU; 13: EI5GM & EI8JA
 hard at work; 14: John EI9HX; 15: The burco boiler ran flawlessly for 48 hours; 16: EI7GY's neat set up; 17: Tribander from
 Kinsale; 18: Hinge arrangement for using gin pole to erect mast; 19: Noel EI6HW looks on; 20: Power for rig and operator!



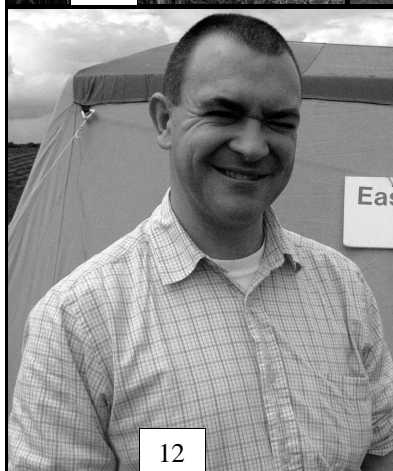
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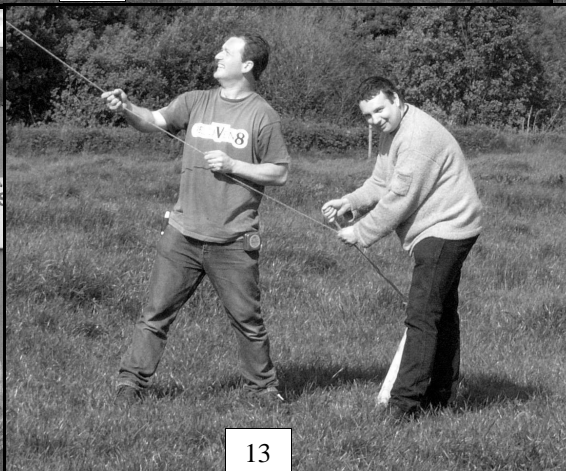
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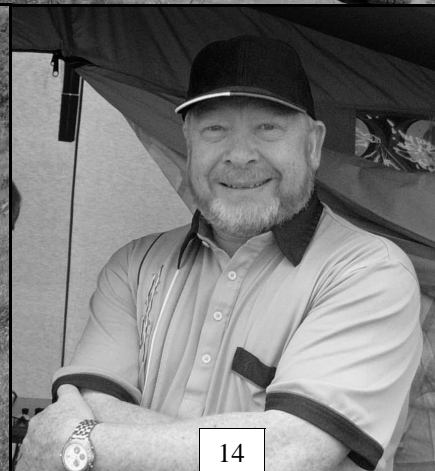
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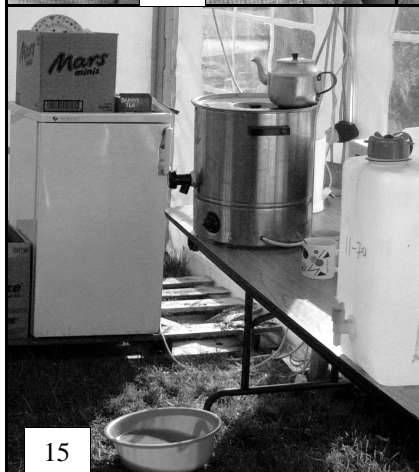
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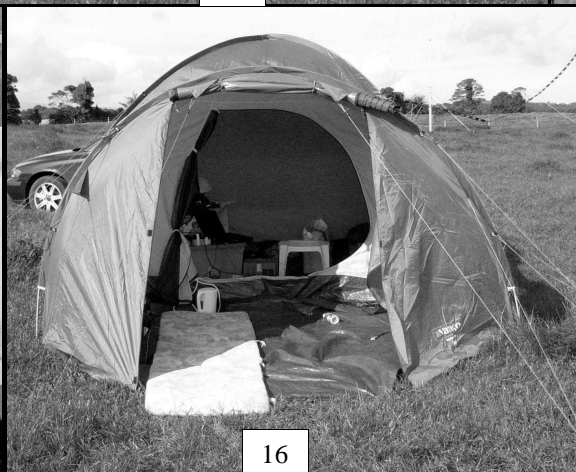
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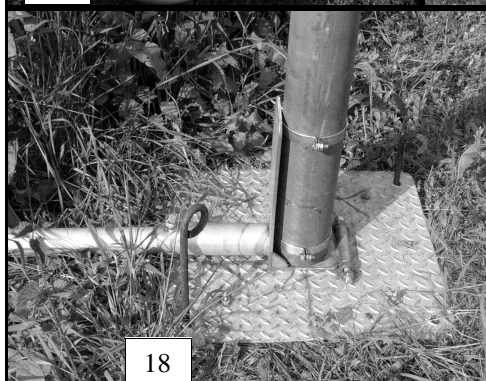
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Club Roundup

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

Group members Tommy EI2IT, Eddie EI3FFB, and Paul EI3ENB operated EI7T/P from south Kilkenny for the Spring Counties Contest while John EI2JB operated EI7TRG/P from Co Tipperary. Many other members of the Group were heard on air giving out valuable points from their various locations.

Members of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group accompanied the walkers taking part in the Glen of Aherlow Walking Festival on both Saturday and Sunday April 5th/6th.

There were 3 walks on both days the "A" Walk on Saturday was a distance of 14km with a climb of 1000m Followed by a Hike on Sunday of 19km lasting 6-8 hours the "B" Walk on both days was a distance of 10km a climb of 800m, the "C" Walk on Saturday and Nature Trail on Sunday were mostly for families and children. In all 290 people took part, The weather conditions were ideal and the club members rendered assistance in a couple of incidents when injury occurred and people got lost,

Base was established in the Foot Bar Rossadrehid and was operated by Hazel EI9IZ, Members who accompanied the walks were, Hugh EI2HI, John EI2JB, John EI7IG, Tommy EI2IT, Joe EI5GE, Eddie EI3FFB, and Paul EI3ENB. VHF and UHF were used in the rough terrain with continuous communications at all times with UHF proving very reliable.

Hugh EI2HI who took part in the "A" Walk of the Glen of Aherlow Walking Festival on Sat 5th April accompanied 28 walkers for a total distance of 23 kms.

Five peaks were climbed Temple Hill, Lyre na gCapall, Galtymore, Galty beag, and Farbreaga, Starting at 9.45am finished at 6 pm, on Sunday 6th he took part in the "Hike" a distance of 19 Kms with 19 walkers Stations worked over the weekend were EI5GF, EI2JC, EI2IT, EI5GE, and EI7GO Co. Tipperary. GI4SRQ Co. Armagh, EI6HW Co. Roscommon, EI4HS Co. Kildare, EI5FQB Co. Offaly, EI9FEB Co. Limerick, EI4HG/M Co. Clare,

Cork Radio Club

2m Counties contest.

EI5CRC/P was operated by Jeremy EI5GM, Finbar EI1CS, Chuck EI4IS and Stephen EI6JA from Farmers cross south of Cork city for the 2m counties contest.

ATV.

The Cork ATV repeater EI2TVR located at Spur hill (south of Cork city) was recently received by Jim EI8IG in Helvic Head Co. Waterford (over 40 miles) Reports to Aedan EI3EG. Preliminary testing has started on 2.4 GHz

CW Field Day

EI5CRC/P was operated in the open section by Jeremy EI5GM, Chuck EI4IS and Stephen EI6JA from Cloughjordan.

Upcoming events.

The club will participate in the VHF/UHF Field Day in July, the Autumn Counties Contest in August and the SSB Field Day in September.

South Dublin Radio Club

South Dublin Radio Club Spring Challenge

The winners of the SDR Spring Challenge - which is based around HF activity during the month of February every year - were announced recently. They are, in the Open Section, Mark Condon EI6JK and, in the restricted section (CW - one band only) Thos Caffrey EI2JD.

The winners were presented with their trophies at a recent club meeting. Joe EI7GY, who checked the logs, reports that he had a particularly difficult task this year, as Mark's claimed score was only one point ahead of his nearest rival - Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI.

All logs were checked in detail, and Joe was able to confirm Mark as the winner.



Tom McGrath EI7HT (on right) Chairman of South Dublin Radio Club presenting the SDR Spring Challenge Trophy to Thos Caffrey EI2JD.

Congratulations to South Dublin Radio Club member Tony Byrne EI9FLB, who has just passed his Morse test.

2m Counties Contest

Helping to put at least five counties on the air for the Easter Monday 2 metre Counties Contest, members of South Dublin Radio Club decided to spread themselves around the country for the contest.

There were six separate entries from SDR members:

Nicholas EI2JL and Joe EI7GY activated the club call from Bencroy, County Leitrim.

Kyle EI9FGB braved the elements by participating in the contest from the summit of Tonlaguee (which is 817 metres above sea level) in County Wicklow; the elements in question included driving rain and a thunderstorm, which forced Kyle to cease operating for twenty minutes.

Meanwhile, Mike EI4JL was on the Ox Mountains in County Sligo.

Tom EI7HT operated from his home QTH in Dublin, where he was accompanied by Richie EI1402.

Also operating in Dublin was Tony EI9FIB, while Mark EI9IB operated from his home QTH in County Kildare.

Shannon Basin Radio Club

The club held it's Annual General Meeting recently and the following were elected:

Chairman Fergus EI6IB
Secretary Brian EI8IU
Treasurer Martin EI4IJ
P.R.O. John EI9HX

The outgoing committee were thanked for their hard work during the past year and the club looks forward to another active year ahead.

Club membership is drawn from counties Galway, Leitrim, Roscommon, Westmeath and Longford and new members are always very welcome.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday each month at the Royal Hotel in Roscommon Town.

Enquiries about the club to Brian EI8IU on 086-8735826

Dalkey Island Contest Group

Keith Martin, ex EI4FBB, now EI4JM, one of the Dalkey Island Contest Group operators, will be stationed in YA, Afghanistan, for the next year. He is working with the aid agency Concern, looking after their HF communications and computer IT systems. He hopes to be QRV on the amateur frequencies once he gets his YA licence sorted out. Despite some recent operations, YA is still on the DXCC most wanted list so we guess he will be kept busy. He also expects to be QRV from Tajikistan, EY8, just to the north of YA.

The Dalkey Island Contest Group plan to be QRV from the Aran Islands for this year's IOTA contest in July.

Sean EI4GK and his group who have activated this island group for this contest for the past number of years have other plans, so the Dalkey crew have decided to step into the breach and try their luck from the west coast for a change. We guess there are just no islands off YA!!

Fingal Radio Club

Fingal Radio Club will run a Mini Bus to the Telford Radio Rally in August.

We will leave early on Saturday 30th August and stay overnight in Brosley and head to the Rally on Sunday 31st. We will have a table booked so any goodies bought will be stored safely while you go looking for more bargains.

The cost will depend on the numbers booked, so the more we get to travel the cost will be cheaper. Cost will include Transfers to and from Dublin to Telford return an evening meal on the Saturday followed by Bed and Breakfast.

The rally this year will be held in the RAF Air Museum in Cosford and if you haven't been there before it is really a spectacle to behold!

The stalls are under wings of large World War 11 bombers and under the engines of others etc.

So if you are interested contact Liam EI3HK at 087-2521542 or home 01-8316266 ASAP.

As soon as I have an idea of numbers I can then work out a very reasonable price that should suit all pockets and keep the XYL's happy!

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

Big Turnout For "Afternoon With Declan Craig."

A large gathering assembled in Castlebar's Linenhall Arts Centre on Sunday April 13th., for The Mayo Radio Experimenters presentation entitled An Afternoon With Declan Craig.

The show which was compered by club Chairperson Frances Taheny, EI5J, commenced with a multimedia presentation by John Corless, EI7IQ, introducing the hobby to the public. This was well received and was followed by the main event, the Declan Craig presentation. Declan's show revealed behind the scenes preparation and planning for the 2002 VP8THU DXpedition to Southern Thule and the VP8GEO trip to South Georgia. This was followed by a question and answer session and a showing of the VP8THU video. Amongst the large attendance were IRTS committee members, Pat Fitzpatrick, EI2HX and Thos Caffrey EI2JD part of a significant DXpedition from Dundalk, travelling especially for the event.

Declan Craig told the gathering that this was the first time that he had made this presentation in Ireland and was delighted to be a guest of the Mayo club which he described as one of the most progressive in the country.

The event was a tremendous success for the Mayo club and is only part of an impressive programme of events planned for the year ahead. Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in Stenson's Lounge Ballyvary, on the N5, commencing at 2100 local time. Visitors and new members are welcome.

Mayo REN

A large crowd attended the June meeting of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network. The meeting reviewed its recent appearance on the RTE Television programme Nationwide. The feedback to date to the club has been fantastic.











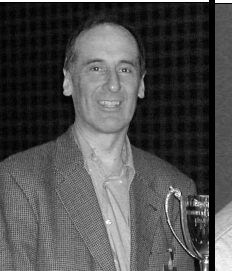



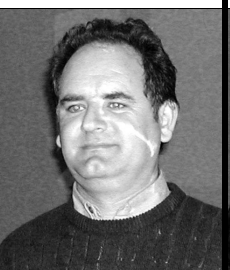



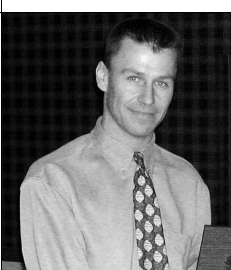




The inaugural Mayo International DX Dinner was also reviewed. This was also considered to be a great success. The club discussed details of their summer programme and plans for their Rally in November.

The club meets on the First Wednesday of each month in Stenson's Lounge Ballyvary, all year round. Visitors and new members are welcome.

Mayo REN Rally Director, Padraic Baynes Snr. EI9JA, has announced that the 2003 Mayo Rally will be held on Sunday November the 16th in The Belmont Hotel, Knock, with doors opening at 11.00 a.m. Listeners will remember the success of the first Mayo rally last year, and the club are already hard at work to ensure a repeat success.

Inaugural International DX Dinner

The first ever International DX Dinner, hosted by

The Arup Cup	The Collins Cup	The Pat Conway Cup	The Presidents Cup	The Sheila Piper Cup	The Tom Donnellan Cup
					
Declan Craig EI6FR	Noel Mulvihill EI6HW	South Dublin R. C. EI2SDR Photo Mark EI6JK	Ken McDermott EI4DW	Pádraig Ó Meachair EI7GK	Ken McDermott EI4DW
IRTS IOTA Trophy	The IRTS DX Cup	The Hal Hodgens Key	The Pete Daly Cup	The Paddy Smyth Cup	The Paddy Daly Microphone
					
EJ4F Photo Sean EI4GK Leading EJ Station	John Corless EI7IQ IOTA Single Op	Ken McDermott EI4DW IOTA 12 Hour CW	RTE Cork EI9E/P CW F/D Open Sect Photo -Dave EI4BZ	Joe Ryan EI7GY/P CW F/D Restd Sect	Dalkey Island Group EI1DD SSB F/D Open Sect Photo Paul EI2CA
The IRTS HF Shield	Thomond Trophy	IRTS VHF Shield	The Ian Morris Memorial Trophy	The EI7IQ 6 Metre Shield	The EI7IQ 4 Metre Shield
					
Dundalk ARS EI5DAR SSB F/D Restd Sect Photo Thos EI2JD	East Cork EI7M VHF/UHF Field Day, Open Section Photo Billy EI7FJ	Dundalk ARS EI5DAR/P VHF F/D Restd Sect Photo Thos EI2JD	Jenny Fagin EI 1463 Leading SWL	Dave Court EI3IO Leading EI station on 6m in 2001	Dave Court EI3IO Leading EI station on 4m in 2001
The Slievenamon Shield	IRTS 2m Counties Contest Winners				
	Not Awarded for 2002 Folan Shield Kevin Freaney Trophy Both for home construction				
Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI 70 Cms FM activity	   				
	Mark EI9IB Spring 2002 High Power Fixed				
	John EI4HS Autumn 2002 Low Power /P				
	Niall EI4CF Spring 2002 FM Only				
	Kyle EI9FGB Autumn 2002 FM Only				



Packet Radio in EI

Information from John Lofthouse EI3DIB

After the last issue of Echo Ireland I had a number of enquiries about the system, it appears that many old hands previously using the BBS's at Waterford and Cork had simply not realised TIPBBS was still operating.

The good news is that my user list had grown from 10 to 26 by last week when I checked and today, before writing this it stood at 29, which I must assume is due in part to the article in the Newsletter and to many old hands having a look see is anything NEW going on? There are also quite a few NEW (to me) stations.

I read an interesting Bulletin yesterday? Ok so of interest to me as it was basically about the Radio Hams in the UK who had the Licence WITHDRAWN in August 1939? Yes those war years and radio was banned unless of an official nature and then very secretive stuff.

Why do I mention this? Because it is simply a case of someone who thought it would interest a few others putting the information on the system, Packet radio can be quite fast and it can have a lot going for it but at the end of the day it is the US-ERS who decide what is or is not available.

Connect to the Internet and send an Email, Now it may of course be read within hours or even less but to a large extent it depends on the person at the other end connecting to collect this mail, packet may not be quite so fast but I have sent to and received a reply from Australia in under 24 hours. My sister out there can take a week or more to reply to an Email so packet may not be quite the same but it stands a pretty good second place and better still, packet is FREE if you hold a licence and have the gear.

To any NEW stations just testing the water!

Connect to your BBS and send SB followed by a subject and an area for distribution, see the list to get a basic idea, HELP is a common subject as we have many helpful hams on packet and sometimes it is simpler than sifting through the results of a search engine on the web, maybe not quite so instant but then that is the fun side. I recently put out a help request in reprogramming a Philips PRM 8020 for 4 Metres and got more than enough information to sort the radio, but rather than just asking OTHERS for help why not send something of interest yourself? If your local club is going to have a day on air or some special event, then packet will deliver that information to lots of likeminded readers who may call and boost your contact log?

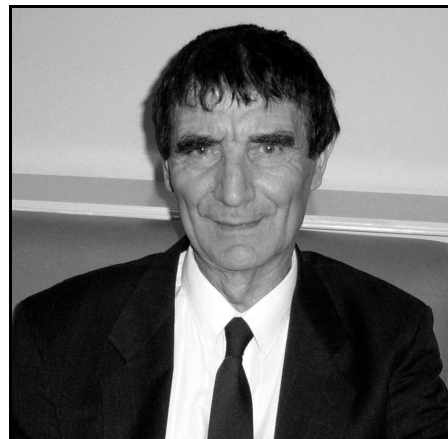
As mentioned in the last article, the BBS can only pass on mail for personal use or bulletins for all and if no one bothers to write anything then the interest will die and the system will shut down. When you find some oddity and get that "now why did I not think of that before" push it out on packet for someone someplace is looking for exactly the same answer. Better still, check the files on your local BBS as the information you require may already be there? Someone wanted the data for a null modem cable, its in the users directory. Have you checked out what is available on YOUR BBS of late? could be a lot more than you thought if only you looked.

John EI3DIB Sysop of TIPBBS.

Outgoing QSL Manager Wanted

The Society would like to hear from members who might be interested in taking over the job of Outgoing QSL Manager.

Please contact Society President Sean Donelan EI4GK on 01-2821420 or via email at seandonelan@indigo.ie



Bill MacDonald G8PUJ

Well known dealer and collector of older radio equipment pictured recently at a function in East Cork.

Bill, while resident in London for many years, is a native of Co. Laois and is a

Notice from ComReg

Under Regulation 6(1) of the Wireless Telegraphy (Experimenter's Licence) Regulations, 2002, all licensees shall "furnish in writing to the Director the home address and, where appropriate, email address, within the EU to which notices or other documents under these Regulations may be delivered" and "likewise furnish any change of address or e-mail address"

Under Regulation 13(1)a, the Director may revoke or suspend a licence "where a condition of a licence (including any condition imposed under these Regulations or other relevant enactments) is contravened"

It should be noted that all forms of correspondence (including Invoices and final Notices) that are returned to ComReg 'Delivery Failure' may be breaching Regulation 6(1).

As of May 1st 2003, all and any correspondence returned 'Delivery Failure' may lead to the Revocation or Suspension of the appropriate licence and Call-sign.

The relevant 'licensee' may then be required to submit a new application under Regulation 10 (4) of the Wireless Telegraphy (Experimenter's Licence) Regulations, 2002. It should be noted that the old call-sign may not be available.

Any queries may be addressed to, Mr Derek C. O'Reilly, Market Framework, Commission for Communications Regulation e-mail: derek.oreilly@comreg.ie Phone: (+ 353 1) 804 9769

U.S.TV Crew Film in the shack of Frank EI2GS



Insomniacs with Dave Attell

"Insomniacs with Dave Attell" is the name of a US TV show that deals only with events that take place after dark. The type of people featuring on a particular show might be Night workers, Partygoers, Late night travellers and Drinkers. They all have in common the fact that they are on the streets, at work or enjoying themselves after dark.

During February, IRTS received a communication from the producers of "Insomniacs" stating that they intended to produce a show around the St. Patrick's Day festivities in Dublin and requesting the cooperation of the Society in including an Amateur Radio segment. The specific requirement was that an Irish Amateur would contact a US

Amateur and be filmed discussing the Day's festivities in their respective cities. In keeping with the show's concept, the filming had to take place after dark!

Frank O'Brien EI2GS agreed to participate as the Irish Amateur and contact was made with a number of US Amateurs asking them to stand by at the appointed time on 20 meters for QSO's with Frank. The film crew visited Frank's QTH some days before March 17th and expressed themselves very satisfied with the arrangements there. They were instructed about the nature of Amateur Radio, introduced to the term "propagation" and advised that there was no certainty that contact could be made with the US on the date and at the time required by them!

Anybody who tried to make Stateside

contacts on St. Patrick's Day will remember that conditions on that day were dreadful, to say the least. There was some propagation early in the day but as the afternoon wore on, conditions deteriorated until almost no North American stations could be heard. By the time the film crew had set up their equipment in Frank's shack there was no possibility of a Stateside QSO and the objective of the visit could not be achieved. However, Dave Attell, the show's host conducted a long interview with Frank on the subject of Amateur Radio in general and after much antenna rotating and Morse paddle fiddling, the crew departed to film the festivities in Dublin's Temple Bar.

At time of writing IRTS has not seen the tape of the St. Patrick's Day show.

Northern Ireland to Russia QSO on 136 kHz

MI0AYZ and RU6LA has claimed the first QSO between Northern Ireland and Russia on 136 kHz on the 19th of April last.

The contact was made using slow CW covering a distance of 3185 kilometres. Ian MI0AYZ was running only 100 watts into a small 10-metre high antenna. He is reportedly the only station active on LF from Northern Ireland and operates on the 136 and 73 kHz bands.

Limerick Radio Club

The Limerick Radio Club would like to thank all their members for their support during the past year. The club has now stopped meeting for the summer months. Meetings will resume in September. Details will be announced on the IRTS News services.

Don't forget the Limerick Rally will be held on April 6th 2003.

EI5HAM

The Blind and Disabled Group, EI5HAM have finished meetings and classes at St. Joseph's, Drumcondra in Dublin until September and the net on 145.575 is also discontinued. Thanks to all who helped in any way during the past year.

In the meantime any inquiries about the Group's activities should be addressed
c/o the IRTS at
PO Box 462, Dublin 9



Summits On The Air

With Joe Ryan EI7GY

On 18 May 2003 Joe EI7GY activated Mullaghcleevaun (EI/IE-002) in County Wicklow, the second highest summit in the Ireland-East region, at 849 metres above sea level.

Operating on 2m FM, he had 11 QSOs over a 90 minute period, mostly with EIs and GIs, but there is a G4 and an MW also in the log.

He had two QSOs with other summits, including Rob G4RQJ/P, who was celebrating his Ruby wedding anniversary by climbing Muncaster Fell (G/LD-055) with his XYL and other family members.

He also had a QSO with Colin GI0RQK/P, who was on Agnew's Hill (GI/AH-005) for the Backpacker's Contest.

Wx was very mixed, with very nice sunshine between the showers. Thunder had been promised by the weather forecasters, and when the background noise level rose, he decided to pack it in. Just as well, as he could see lightning strikes on some of the nearby peaks as he descended into the forest below Mullaghcleevaun.

On 11 May 2003 Colin GI0RQK and Joe EI7GY were in County Wexford today, on Croghan Mountain (EI/IE-013). It's a 5km walk from the car park, difficult in places especially with lead-acid batteries in their packs!

They arrived well ahead of their advertised time, and were on the air just after 13:00 local time. The weather was deteriorating rapidly as they set up, however they stayed on the air for an hour, working G and GW stations on 2 metres FM and 40 metres CW. Joe reports his first CW SOTA to SOTA QSO, with Mike, GW4DDL, who was on Glyder Fawr. A combination of wind and rain forced them to close down shortly after 14:00 local time.

On 21 April 2003 a number of summits were activated during the EI 2 metre Counties Contest.

Summits heard on the air included Croagh Patrick (IW-005) and Tonlague (IE-003). Reports of other summits heard on the day would be welcome.

On 5-6 April 2003 members of the Tip-



perary Amateur Radio Group provided emergency communications support for up to 300 walkers who took part in the Aherlow Hillwalking Festival over the Galty Mountains. Members activated Galtymore Mountain (IS-004) from time to time on S18 on both days.

On 29 March 2003 Joe EI7GY activated Lugnaquilla (IE-001) - 925 metres asl - on 2 metres FM. Band conditions seemed fairly flat, so he had only a few QSOs with stations across the water.

SOTA in the Republic of Ireland got off to a good start on Saturday 15th March, helped by some of the best weather we have seen for many months.

Tonlague (IE-003) - 817 metres asl - was, we think the first EI SOTA on the air, and it was activated by a team of six, which included Joe EI7GY (Association Manager for the Republic of Ireland) and Colin GI0RQK (Association Manager for Northern Ireland).

The Tonlague operation was on HF and 2 metres.

HF conditions were poor, and best DX on the day was Italy, on 15 metres CW. However, contacts on 2 metres were plentiful.

Charlie EI7HG was on Sorrel Hill (IE-014) - 599 metres asl - on Saturday, and he was out again on Sunday, operating from Kippure (IE-005) - 757 metres asl.

Joe EI7GY rounded off the bank holiday weekend (Saint Patrick's weekend) by activating Fairy Castle (EI-018) - 563 metres asl - on Monday 17th, on 2 metres FM.

No doubt there were other EI summits activated over the weekend, if so it would be great to hear about them.

The DXpedition Experience

Join Declan EI6FR, Dermot EI5IQ and the team on.....

VP8THU Southern Thule, South Sandwich Islands 2002.

VP8GEO South Georgia 2002.

Both available in Video or DVD format at €20 each (plus €2 postage per tape)

Special offer - Purchase both and buy one of the other tapes in the DXpedition series for just €10

Also available in video format at €20 (includes postage):

ZL9CI Campbell Islands 2002.

FO0AAA Clipperton Island.

VK0IR Heard Island, Outpost on the Edge.

A52A Bhutan.

All from -
9V Post Production
c/o Declan Craig,
167 St. James's Rd,
Greenhills, Dublin 12.

ei6fr@gofree.indigo.ie
086-4027652

Are you suffering from QRM?

The EMC Manager of the IRTS would like to hear from amateurs throughout the country who may have or presently do suffer from interference to the bands, particularly on the HF frequencies.

There seems to be an increase in interference to the HF bands in recent times. We need to gather a database of problems so that we can advance our investigations.

The interference maybe in the form of a harsh wrasping to a variable warbling noise and it can be as strong as 20dB over 9 on the 40m band.

Anybody who suffers from these problems are urged to contact the EMC Manager with details.

The EMC Manager can be contacted at QTHR or by email on ei6fe@eircom.net"

Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.



Contest Corner

With
Dave EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net

CW Field Day

Participation in CW Field Day has been very poor for quite a few years now and a suggestion at the recent IRTS AGM to consider reverting to the original Filed Day concept of everybody getting together at one location was suggested as a possible way of generating more interest.

This was tried for this years event on June 78th thanks to the generosity of Paddy Maher EI3AV who made his land available to us.

Initial interest was very good and it looked like five groups would participate.

However, on the day we ended up with three stations, two in the restricted and one in the open section.

A 20 by 10 foot marquee was hired and erected on site by the hirer and Paddy EI3AV provided the electrical installation. This was to be used as the welfare tent and was equipped with several six-foot tables and chairs, which were borrowed from his local community hall by EI4BZ. The Burco boiler was provided courtesy of EI7M and Jeremy EI5GM brought the fridge and gas cooker. The Burco was fired up on Friday evening and boiling water was available at all times until Sunday afternoon.

Two of the three entries were from Cork. Cork Radio Club entered the open section while the East Cork Group took

part in the restricted section.

Both of these crews arrived on site on the Friday evening but station set-up was left to the following morning due to the comfort of the welfare facilities. Lots were drawn for the sites before everybody retired for the night.

Joe Ryan EI7GY, who was the third entry, arrived early on Saturday morning and he quickly demonstrated that good organisation can make up for lack of bodies.

Joe was a single operator entry, as he has been for the past few years, and he set up and operated without any help whatever. His station was an impressive two-mast job, both at over 30 feet and the aerial was a Windom. He operated from a tent.

Jeremy EI5GM, Chairman of Cork Radio Club, brought along his mobile shack – a small caravan with the insides removed and refitted for radio operating. They erected a tribander for the HF bands and had dipoles for the lower bands.

The East Cork Group had a very simple but efficient set up. The shack was a frame tent, borrowed from John Ketch EI2GN and they only erected one pole. This was a much admired fibre glass telescopic job, four inches at the bottom and two inches at the top and capable of going to 50 feet fully extended. (see the hinge for using a gin pole to erect it in picture ?? on page ??).

All stations were ready in time for the off and conditions were deemed to be reasonable.

The weather was really beautiful right up to Sunday afternoon but the rain arrived with about an hour to go to take down. Joe Ryan claims that this was his fifth year in a row getting wet while packing up after CW field day.

We had many visitors over the two days. IRTS Contest Manager Noel EI2JD was ever present and this must have been the best supervised Field Day in living memory!

Cork Radio Club used the newly issued call EI1X and were represented by Jeremy EI5GM, Chuck EI4IS, Stephen EI6JA and Anatoly EI4JF.

The East Cork team was Jerry EI6BT, Stephen EI9HC and Dave EI4BZ.

The weekend was deemed to be a success by all who attended and the format should be seriously looked at for the SSB field Day in September.

Our sincere thanks to Paddy Maher EI3AV who provided the excellent facilities and who was always on hand over the weekend to help in any way possible.

We also owe him an apology. There were countless photos and video footage taken over the weekend and we all failed to get a good image of Paddy for publication.

2002 IOTA Contest EI Results

	QSOs	Mults	Points	EU	Island	Overall Position
Multi-operator						
EI7M	2,632	417	6,194,952	EU-115		11
EJ4F	1,976	292	3,798,336	EU-006	Inisheer	23
EJ5E	1,432	298	3,082,512	EU-121	Inishbofin	27
24 Hour SSB						
EI7IQ	533	130	540,150	EU-115		7
12 Hour CW						
EI4DW	382	76	181,944	EU-115		29
12 Hour SSB						
EI7CC	381	118	347,274	EU-116		7
EI4CF	228	119	275,604	EU-115		11

See EI IOTA Records on page ??

IOTA Contest

Last years IOTA contest saw a drop of four EI entries from the previous year.

Two new records were set. In the Multi section EI7M finally got the better of the Dalkey Island Group with 300 QSOs and 17 multipliers more than the previous EI1DD record. That could change again this year as the Dalkey boys head west to the Aran Islands and it looks like there will not be an entry from East Cork.

The only other record was set by Ken EI4DW in the 12 Hour CW section when he improved on his own record by 12 QSOs and 5 multipliers.

The DDG DX Group are heading back to Inishbofin this year and should make further improvements in their fine score of last year. Sean EI4GK who normally leads an island team will not be available this year.

The WestNet Group are also travelling to an Island for this years event on July 26/27th.

Logbook of the World

ARRL's Logbook of the World (LOTW) system is a repository of log records submitted (electronically) by users from around the world.

When BOTH participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LOTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit.

This will do away with the need for paper confirmation of QSOs for ARRL sponsored awards.

It is hoped that other major international award sponsors will also come on board.

To minimize the chance of fraudulent submissions to LOTW, all QSO records must be digitally signed using a digital certificate obtained from ARRL.

Obtaining such a certificate requires verification of the licensee's identity either through mail verification (US) or inspection by ARRL of required documentation (non-US).

These verification requirements are waived during the beta-test period presently in progress.

Software developed by ARRL can be used to convert a log file (in ADIF or Cabrillo file format) into a file of digitally signed QSO data, ready for submission to LOTW.

At present, LOTW is undergoing beta test.

For information on how to participate in the beta test, see "Getting Started with LOTW."

This information can be downloaded from the ARRL LoTW (<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>) page.

EI4IS



South Dublin Radio Club with The Collins Cup

Members of South Dublin Radio Club pictured with the Collins Cup which was awarded to the Club at the IRTS AGM 2003.

Contest Calendar

July 2003

5/6th	0000-2400	Venezuelan Ind. Day	SSB/CW
5/6th	1100-1059	DL DX RTTY	RTTY
12/13th	1200-1200	IARU HF World C' ship	CW/SSB
19/20th	1800-2100	CQ WW VHF Contest	
26/27th	0000-24000	Russian RTTY WW Contest	
26/27th	1200-1200	IOTA Contest	CW/SSB

August 2003

2/3rd	0001-2400	10-10 Int. Summer Contest	SSB
2nd	1000-2159	European HF C' ship	
9/10th	0000-2359	WAE DX Contest	CW
16/17th	1200-1200	Keyman's Club of Japan	
23/24th	1200-1200	TOEC WW Grid Contest	CW
30/31st	1200-1200	YO HF DX Contest	

September 2003

6/7th	1300-1300	IARU Region 1 Field Day	SSB
6/7th	0000-2359	All Asian DX Contest	SSB

EI All Time IOTA Records

(Up to and including 2002)

Category	Callsign	QSO's	Multipliers	Points	Year	Posn
Multi-Operator	EI7M	2,632	417	6,194,952	2002	11th
Single-Op, 24 Hour-Mixed	EI5DI	1,052	190	1,243,718	1999	2nd
Single-Op, 24 Hour-CW	EI4BZ	660	115	477,480	2001	16th
Single-Op, 24 Hour-SSB	EI8IR	1,842	223	2,222,418	2001	4th
Single-Op, 12 Hour-Mixed	EI5DI	567	84	260,820	2001	8th
Single-Op, 12 Hour-CW	EI4DW	382	76	181,944	2002	29th
Single-Op, 12 Hour-SSB	EI7GL	424	151	612,456	2001	8th

Members Advertisements

For Sale: Skanti TRP 6000 Marine 200 Watt SSB Transceiver. Mains PSU, Built-in Auto Tuner. Also have micro-chip to activate 80 and 160m bands. Unwanted as now not sailing any more. Offers to Tom EI2AJ at 01-8211043

For Sale: Hewlett Packard Pavillion 7925 PC with Printer and digital camera, 2 Joy Pads and some games. 13 months old - as new. Trust 9600 Plus Flatbed Colour Scanner. Optoelectronics Digital Scout - New. Phone 061-397004

For Sale: Philips PRM 8010 Ex PMR 4 Meter Rigs, 25 watt out, FM Only, 10 channels. Programmed as required, repeater, CTCSS, Selcall etc or just our band. Excellent packet unit but requires simple plug in connection to bring AF/PTT out of the rig, I have a few tested programmed and working units for sale. Phone John EI3DIB on 087-1365260 any time. QTHR.

Complete Shack Clearance

Icom IC 751...€650, Icom R 7000...€600, Matching Icom Speaker €100, Yaesu FT101ZD...€450, 2 PC's, one with SSTV hardware and ATI TV board...offers. 3 colour printers.....offers. Worthing FSTV TX €300, 23cms PA €100, Maspro RX with 23 cms pre-amp €100.

Too many items to list. Phone Craig EI3FW 087 2624881 or email crobinson@connect.ie for full list.

For Sale: Kenwood TS-850 SAT Boxed, mint, manual. Price€30.00 Kenwood TM241E, 2m. 50 watt. FM. Boxed, mint, manual. Price €125.00 Drake SSR-1 HF Receiver: 0.5-30MHz. AM/SSB/CW. Perfect order late S/N. Manual, Price €320.00 Icom HC-16, Hand-Held 137-174MHz. Transceiver (channel display. keypad entry). C/W Long life battery, wall charger, rubber duck antenna, operating & programming manuals, PWO. Price €5.00 Yaesu MD 1 Mike (B8) no box, no instructions, perfect condition & PWO. Price €0.0 Please phone 0872904243 or e-mail: rmuir@eircom.net

Cork Radio Club

Annual Amateur Radio Rally

Blarney Park Hotel, Cork

Sunday September 21st 2003

Contact

Con EI7DJB at 021-4270136

Dick EI6HH at 021-4545154

www.blarneyrally.com

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

2003 Mayo Rally

Belmont Hotel, Knock

Sunday November 16th, 2003

Contact Padraic Baynes Snr, EI9JA at 098-27616

For Sale: Swan 350C. Single Sideband Transceiver with manual, also G5RV Ant. €250.00 o.n.o. Contact: F.P.Jennings Tel 074-38005 or Fax 074-38371 Email pjei2bl@hotmail.com

Old Radio Books For Sale

1/ Newnes Everyman's Wireless Book (first edition) by F J CAMM – 1934
2/ The Book of Practical Radio (first edition) by J Scott-Taggart – 1934
3/ Fun With Radio (first edition) – 1957 By Gilbert Davey
4/ ARRL 1963 Radio Amateur's Handbook
5/ Handbook for Radio Operators – 1975 (UK Post Office/HMSO) Licensed installations manual
6/ BBC Handbook – 1974
7/ World Radio & TV Handbook – 1976

8/ Guide To Broadcasting Stations – 1980
9/ British Guide to CB Radio – 1981
10/ Scanners, VHF/UHF Guide – 1987 by GUIDKD
11/ World Radio & TV Handbook – 1996
12/ Passport To World Band Radio – 2000
(1, 2, & 3 are hardback; 4,5,6,7,10,11, & 12 are large paperback; 8 & 9 paperback)
All in good to very good condition
Realistic Offers Please (+ postage at cost)
Peter Mac Dougall, EI299 QTHR